

Poster presentation

Open Access

An independent 40 year review of mortality in open spina bifida

Gillian M Hunt* and Pippa Oakeshott

Address: 65 Grantchester St Cambridge CB3 9 HZ

Email: Gillian M Hunt* - gillianhunt@poulton65.fsnet.co.uk

* Corresponding author

from 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida
Barcelona, Spain, 29 June – 2 July 2005

Published: 30 December 2005

Cerebrospinal Fluid Research 2005, **2**(Suppl 1):S47 doi:10.1186/1743-8454-2-S1-S47

Background

The mortality in young children with spina bifida has fallen since 1963 when the Cambridge study began. Studies in older children and adults show a considerable loss at follow-up, and incomplete data on causes of death

Materials and methods

The Cambridge Cohort consists of 116 cases born between 1963 and 1971. The causes of death up to 2005 are recorded. Information came from hospital records and the Office of National Statistics. Further information was obtained from autopsy reports and from doctors and carers

Results

67 (57%) of the patients have died. Most deaths in the first 20 years were caused by hydrocephalus and CSF infections. In the second 20 years deaths were more commonly cardio-respiratory and renal. Mortality was greater where the sensory level of the lesion was higher.

Conclusion

The overall death rate compared with other centres. Patients with a high sensory level have twice the mortality of those with a low sensory level.